

What is claimed is:

1. A system for one of a plurality of end-users of a common network to select a second service provider as a replacement for a first service provider, the first service provider and the second service provider providing services on the common network as customers of an operator of a high-speed network configured to provide connectivity between the plurality end-users and both of the first service provider and the second service provider, comprising:

a digital repository populated with a plurality of end-user entries, each end-user entry corresponding to a unique one of the plurality of end-users and including a current service provider indicator for the corresponding end-user;

a processor; and

a computer readable medium encoded with processor readable instructions that when executed by the processor implement

a service provider discontinuation mechanism configured to store in a memory an indicator that the first service provider is no longer a customer of the operator of the high-speed network,

an end-user determination mechanism configured to access the indicator in the memory and to query the digital repository to identify which of the plurality of end-users of the common network have a current service provider indicator indicating the first service provider, and

a service provider selection mechanism configured to access the digital repository via the high-speed network by the one of the plurality of end-users, select the second service provider as a new service provider, and to update the current service provider indicator for the one of the plurality of end-users in the digital repository to reflect the second service provider, and

an end-user redirection mechanism configured to direct each of the plurality of end-users identified by the end-user determination mechanism accessing the high-speed network to the service provider selection mechanism.

2. The system of Claim 1, wherein the digital repository comprises a database.

3. The system of Claim 1, wherein the high-speed network comprises a network configured to provide at least one of Internet access, digital video services, analog video services, packetized voice, voice-over-Internet Protocol, interactive video, interactive television, near video-on-demand, video-on-demand, data services, and telephony services.

4. The system of Claim 1, wherein the high-speed network comprises an open access network.

5. The system of Claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the common network comprises an Internet protocol network.

6. The network of Claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the common network comprises the Internet.

7. The system of Claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the high-speed network comprises at least one of a hybrid fiber optic coaxial network, a Digital Subscriber Line network, and a wireless broadband network.

8. The system of Claim 1, wherein at least one of the first service provider and the second service provider comprise an Internet service provider.

9. The system of Claim 1, wherein the end-user redirection mechanism is further configured to direct each of the plurality of end-users to the service provider selection mechanism using a wildcard Domain Name System technique to resolve an end-user Domain Name System address resolution request to an IP address of the service provider selection mechanism.

10. The system of Claim 1, wherein the end-user redirection mechanism is further configured to use at least one of policy-based routing and multi-protocol label switching-based routing to direct each of the plurality of end-users to the service provider selection mechanism.

11. The system of Claim 1, wherein the end-user redirection mechanism is further configured to use at least one of a tunneling technique, a policy-based routing technique, and a multi-protocol label switching based routing technique to direct each of the plurality of end-users to the service provider selection mechanism.

12. The system of Claim 11, wherein the tunneling technique comprises a Layer Two Tunneling Protocol.

13. The system of Claim 1, wherein:

the computer readable medium is further encoded with processor readable instructions that when executed by the processor further implements

an IP subnet management mechanism configured to

allocate a first subnet corresponding to the first service provider and a second subnet corresponding to the second service provider,

allocate a first IP address of the first subnet to a first device of a first end-user of the first service provider and a second IP address of the second subnet to a second device of a second end-user of the second service provider, and

renew IP addresses of the first subnet and the second subnet at a predetermined period, wherein

the IP subnet management mechanism does not renew IP addresses of the first subnet subsequent to the service provider discontinuation mechanism storing the indicator in the memory.

14. The system of Claim 1, wherein the end-user redirection mechanism is further configured to direct each of the plurality of end-users for a predetermined duration following an indication by the service provider discontinuation mechanism that the first service provider is no longer available to provide services on the high-speed network.

15. The system of Claim 14, wherein the predetermined duration comprises a configurable amount of time.

16. The system of Claim 14, wherein the end-user redirection mechanism is further configured to display a message to an end-user that has not selected a new service provider during the predetermined duration.

17. A method for one of a plurality of end-users to select a second service provider as a replacement for a first service provider, the first service provider and the second service provider providing services on the common network as customers of an operator of a high-speed network configured to provide connectivity between the plurality of end-users and both the first service provider and the second service provider, comprising the steps of:

storing an indicator in a memory indicating that the first service provider is no longer a customer of the operator of the high-speed network;

querying a digital repository to identify the one of the plurality of end-users subscribing to the first service provider for services on the common network;

redirecting the one of the plurality of end-users to a service provider selection application when accessing the high-speed network; and

selecting the second service provider as a replacement for the first service provider by the one of the plurality of end-users.

18. The method of Claim 17, wherein the step of redirecting comprises redirecting the one of a plurality of end-users to the service provider selection application for a predetermined amount of time.

19. The method of Claim 18, further comprising the step of:

displaying a message to the one of the plurality of end-users when accessing the common network after the predetermined amount of time.

20. The method of Claim 18, wherein the predetermined amount of time comprises a configurable amount of time.

21. The method of Claim 17, further comprising the steps of:

allocating a first subnet for the first service provider and a second subnet for the second service provider;

allocating individual IP addresses to equipment of each of the plurality of end-users such that end-users subscribing to the first service provider are allocated IP addresses corresponding to the first subnet and end-users subscribing to the second service provider are allocated IP addresses corresponding to the second subnet; and

renewing at a predetermined period IP addresses corresponding to the first subnet and the second subnet, wherein

IP addresses are not renewed for the subnet corresponding to the first service provider subsequent to the first service provider being indicated as no longer being a customer of the operator of the high-speed network.

22. A system for one of a plurality of end-users to select a second service provider as a replacement for a first service provider, the first service provider and the second service provider providing services on the common network as customers of an operator of a high-speed network providing connectivity between the plurality of end-users and both of the first service provider and the second service provider, comprising:

means for storing an indicator in a memory indicating that the first service provider is no longer a customer of the operator of the high-speed network;

means for querying a digital repository to identify the one of the plurality of end-users subscribing to the first service provider for services on the common network;

means for redirecting the one of the plurality of end-users to a service provider selection application when accessing the high-speed network; and

means for selecting the second service provider as a replacement for the first service provider by the one of the plurality of end-users.

23. The system of Claim 22, further comprising:

means for allocating a first subnet for the first service provider and a second subnet for the second service provider;

means for allocating individual IP addresses to equipment of each of the plurality of end-users such that end-users subscribing to the first service provider are allocated IP addresses corresponding to the first subnet and end-users subscribing to the second service provider are allocated IP addresses corresponding to the second subnet; and

means for renewing at a predetermined period IP addresses corresponding to the first subnet and the second subnet, wherein

the means for renewing does not renew IP addresses for the subnet corresponding to the first service provider subsequent to the first service provider being indicated as no longer being a customer of the operator of the high-speed network.

24. The system of Claim 22, wherein the digital repository comprises a database.

25. The system of Claim 22, wherein the high-speed network comprises a network configured to provide at least one of Internet access, digital video services, analog video services, packetized voice, voice-over-Internet Protocol, interactive video, interactive television, near video-on-demand, video-on-demand, data services, and telephony services.

26. The system of Claim 22, wherein the high-speed network comprises an open access network.

27. The system of Claim 22, wherein at least a portion of the common network comprises an Internet protocol network.

28. The network of Claim 22, wherein at least a portion of the common network comprises the Internet.

29. The system of Claim 22, wherein at least a portion of the high-speed network comprises at least one of a hybrid fiber optic coaxial network, a Digital Subscriber Line network and a wireless broadband network.

30. The system of Claim 22, wherein at least one of the first service provider and the second service provider comprise an Internet service provider.

31. The system of Claim 22, wherein the means for redirecting is configured to direct each of the plurality of end-users to the means for selecting using a wildcard Domain Name



System technique to resolve an end-user Domain Name System address resolution request to an IP address of the means for selecting.

32. The system of Claim 1, wherein the means for redirecting is configured to use at least one of a policy-based routing and a multi-protocol label switching based routing to direct each of the plurality of end-users to the means for selecting.

33. The system of Claim 1, wherein the means for redirecting is configured to use at least one of a tunneling technique a policy-based routing technique and a multi-protocol label switching based routing technique to direct each of the plurality of end-users to the means for selecting.

34. A computer program product, comprising:

a computer storage medium; and

a computer program code mechanism embedded in the computer storage medium for causing a processor to replace a first service provider of one of a plurality of end-users of a common network with a second service provider, the first service provider and the second service provider providing services on the common network as customers of an operator of a high-speed network configured to provide connectivity between the plurality of end-users and both the first service provider and the second service provider, the computer program code mechanism having,

a first computer code device configured to maintain end-user information in a digital repository, the end-user information including a current service provider indicator for

each of the plurality of end-users indicating a corresponding service provider providing services on the common network,

a second computer code device configured to store an indicator in a memory that the first service provider is no longer a customer of the operator of the high-speed network,

a third computer code device configured to access the digital repository and determine which of the plurality of end-users have a current service provider indicator indicating the first service provider,

a fourth computer code device configured to select the second service provider as a new service provider and to update the current service provider indicator for the one of the plurality of end-users in the digital repository to reflect the second service provider,

a fifth computer code device configured to direct each of the plurality of end-users identified by the third computer code device accessing the high-speed network to the fourth computer code device.

35. The computer program product of Claim 34, wherein the digital repository comprises a database.

36. The computer program product of Claim 34, wherein the high-speed network comprises a network dedicated to broadband data transport services.

37. The computer program product of Claim 34, wherein the high-speed network comprises an open access network.

38. The computer program product of Claim 34, wherein at least a portion of the common network comprises an Internet protocol network.

39. The computer program product of Claim 34, wherein at least a portion of the common network comprises the Internet.

40. The computer program product of Claim 34, wherein at least a portion of the high-speed network comprises at least one of a hybrid fiber optic coaxial network, a Digital Subscriber Line network, and a wireless broadband network.

41. The computer program product of Claim 34, wherein at least one of the first service provider and the second service provider comprises an Internet service provider.

42. The computer program product of Claim 34, wherein the fifth computer code device is further configured to direct each of the plurality of end-users to the fourth computer code device using a wildcard Domain Name System technique to resolve an end-user Domain Name System address resolution request to an IP address of the fourth computer code device.

43. The computer program product of Claim 34, wherein the fifth computer code device is further configured to use at least one of a policy-based routing and a multi-protocol label switching based routing to direct each of the plurality of end-users to the fourth computer code device.

44. The computer program product of Claim 34, wherein the fifth computer code device is further configured to use at least one of a tunneling technique a policy-based routing technique, and a multi-protocol label switching based routing technique to direct each of the plurality of end-users to the fourth computer code device.

45. The computer program product of Claim 34, wherein:

the computer program code mechanism further includes

a sixth computer code device configured to

allocate a first subnet corresponding to the first service provider and a second subnet corresponding to the second service provider,

allocate a first IP address of the first subnet to a first device of a first end-user of the first service provider and a second IP address of the second subnet to a second device of a second end-user of the second service provider, and

renew IP addresses of to the first subnet and the second subnet at a predetermined period, wherein

the sixth computer code device does not renew IP addresses of the first subnet subsequent to the second computer code device storing the indicator in the memory.

46. The computer program product of Claim 34, wherein the high-speed network comprises a network configured to provide at least one of Internet access, data services, digital video, analog video, packetized voice, voice-over-Internet Protocol, telephony services, interactive video, interactive television, near video-on-demand, and video-on-demand.

47. The computer program product of Claim 34, wherein at least a portion of the high-speed network comprises a Data Over Cable Service Interface Specification network.

48. The computer program product of Claim 34, wherein at least a portion of the high-speed network comprises a European Data Over Cable Service Interface Specification network.

49. The computer program product of Claim 34, wherein at least a portion of the high-speed network comprises a Digital Subscriber Line network.

50. The computer program product of Claim 34, wherein at least a portion of the high-speed network comprises a Point-to-Point Protocol over Ethernet network.

51. The system of Claim 1, wherein the high-speed network comprises a network dedicated to broadband data transport services.

52. The system of Claim 1, wherein the high-speed network comprises a network configured to provide at least one of Internet access, data services, digital video, analog video, packetized voice, voice-over-Internet Protocol, telephony services, interactive video, interactive television, near video-on-demand, and video-on-demand.

53. The system of Claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the high-speed network comprises a Data Over Cable Service Interface Specification network.

54. The system of Claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the high-speed network comprises a European Data Over Cable Service Interface Specification network.

55. The system of Claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the high-speed network comprises a Digital Subscriber Line network.

56. The system of Claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the high-speed network comprises a Point-to-Point Protocol over Ethernet network.

57. The method of Claim 17, wherein the high-speed network comprises a network dedicated to broadband data transport services.

58. The method of Claim 17, wherein the high-speed network comprises a network configured to provide at least one of Internet access, data services, digital video, analog video, packetized voice, voice-over-Internet Protocol, telephony services, interactive video, interactive television, near video-on-demand, and video-on-demand.

59. The method of Claim 17, wherein at least a portion of the high-speed network comprises a Data Over Cable Service Interface Specification network.

60. The method of Claim 17, wherein at least a portion of the high-speed network comprises a European Data Over Cable Service Interface Specification network.

61. The method of Claim 17, wherein at least a portion of the high-speed network comprises a Digital Subscriber Line network.

62. The method of Claim 17, wherein at least a portion of the high-speed network comprises a Point-to-Point Protocol over Ethernet network.

63. The system of Claim 22, wherein the high-speed network comprises a network dedicated to broadband data transport services.

64. The system of Claim 22, wherein the high-speed network comprises a network configured to provide at least one of Internet access, data services, digital video, analog video, packetized voice, voice-over-Internet Protocol, telephony services, interactive video, interactive television, near video-on-demand, and video-on-demand.

65. The system of Claim 22, wherein at least a portion of the high-speed network comprises a Data Over Cable Service Interface Specification network.

66. The system of Claim 22, wherein at least a portion of the high-speed network comprises a European Data Over Cable Service Interface Specification network.

67. The system of Claim 22, wherein at least a portion of the high-speed network comprises a Digital Subscriber Line network.

68. The system of Claim 22, wherein at least a portion of the high-speed network comprises a Point-to-Point Protocol over Ethernet network.

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